THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Mangrove development along coasts

511. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have a programme to expand mangrove forest along our coast;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for this programme during the last two financial years;

(d) the funds utilized during the said years on mangrove development; and

(e) the other steps proposed to expand this work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government seeks to sustain and expand mangrove forests in the country. The Government has identified 35 mangrove areas on a country-wide basis for intensive conservation and management.

(c) and (d) During the last two financial years *i.e.* 2002-03 and 2003-04; against an allocation of Rs. 8 Crores, a sum of Rs. 8.27 crores was released to Coastal States/Union Territories for activities like Survey and Demarcation, Afforestation, Restoration, alternative/Supplementary Livelihoods, Protection Measures and Education and Awareness.

(e) In view of multiple benefits offered by mangrove forests to the coastal ecology and the local population, the Coastal States and Union Territories have been requested to identify additional areas suitable for mangrove plantation with people's participation and augment the existing efforts related to education, awareness and alternative/supplementary livelihoods.

Allocation of forest land to Government Departments

512. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: